

celebrating its 60th anniversary from July 27–29. This famous attraction is a rich part of Florida's heritage, showcasing 60 years of one of a kind "mermaid" shows, as well as outdoor recreational opportunities, including river cruises, nature trails, canoeing, kayaking, and a water park.

Weeki Wachee got its start as a Florida phenomenon in 1946, when Newton Perry, a retired World War II Navy diving instructor, recognized the site's potential as a unique tourist attraction. The Seminole Indians gave "Weeki Wachee" its name, which means "little spring" or "winding river" in their language. The spring, which is so deep that the bottom has never been found, bubbles with crystal-clear water from the pristine Floridan Aquifer and maintains a year-round temperature of 72 degrees.

Perry invented a method of breathing underwater through a tube that allowed performers to move freely without cumbersome SCUBA equipment. He built a theater into the limestone, submerged below the surface of the water, so viewers could look right into the natural beauty of the ancient spring. The first show at the Weeki Wachee Springs underwater theater featured women dressed as mermaids performing underwater synchronized ballet. It opened on October 13, 1947, one day before Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier.

When Weeki Wachee was purchased by ABC in 1959, its popularity began to skyrocket. More than half a million people came to visit the spring each year, and girls came from as far away as Tokyo to audition as mermaids. Celebrities including Don Knotts, Esther Williams, Arthur Godfrey and Elvis Presley all came to Weeki Wachee.

While the park continues to attract thousands of visitors each year, Weeki Wachee will forever be remembered as one of Florida's first and finest attractions. Weeki Wachee is a showcase of the superb natural beauty and friendly atmosphere that continues to attract so many to our great State.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRENT
HOLBROOK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Brent Holbrook. After nearly 40 years with the U.S. Department of Treasury—Internal Revenue Service, IRS, he retired this past June.

During his tenure, Brent worked at the IRS Fresno Service Center. Here, he steadily advanced in various staff positions to finally become a Supervisor. He then managed a large team of analysts, agents, and auditors improving the efficiency of processing Federal and State tax returns. I have had the pleasure of working with Brent frequently and his dedication to the community is to be commended.

In 1999, Brent was selected as the Governmental Liaison for California's San Jose Area and the Central Valley. In this position, he worked with the three California State tax agencies on compliance and customer service projects. He also served as the IRS Liaison for

11 congressional offices, providing them with IRS news and information, while answering constituent inquiries on general tax law. As his tenure with the IRS ends, Brent will be remembered as an example to staff throughout the Federal Government for his outstanding ability to work closely and effectively with government officials.

Throughout his career at the IRS, Brent Holbrook has proven to be a highly effective administrator who was always committed to excellence in public service. As he gets ready to spend much more time with his wife Linda, I wish him much continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING MR. CHRISTOPHER
CAVANAUGH, RECIPIENT OF THE
PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY
SCHOOL CORPORATION 2008
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, the educators of our country's youth are the trusted stewards of our country's future, and it is important to recognize those outstanding and irreplaceable teachers who go above and beyond serving our communities. Mr. Christopher Cavanaugh, of Plainfield, Indiana, is one such estimable teacher. He is a profound role model for aspiring teachers and good citizens.

Mr. Cavanaugh has been teaching students and setting standards of excellence at Plainfield High School for 17 years. On June 14, 2007, he was recognized by the Plainfield Community School Corporation as the 2008 Teacher of the Year for his work teaching senior government, Cultural Heritage of the American People, and We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution. His exceptional work highlights the vital role the American people play in their Government, teaching students not only the principle of their rights, but the honor of their responsibilities.

Last year, Mr. Cavanaugh received the inaugural American Civics Teacher Award, a national award sponsored by the National Education Association, the Center for Civic Education, and the Center on Congress at Indiana University. When he traveled to Washington, DC, to receive this distinguished honor, I had the distinguished pleasure of meeting with him in my office to discuss his enthusiasm for teaching American civics and his dedicated service to the community. It was immediately clear that his priorities include not only endowing his students with knowledge, but motivating them to act on what they learn by being responsible citizens and honoring the ideals of democracy by being lifelong participants in their Government.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Cavanaugh continues to encourage and empower students as the coach of Plainfield's swimming and diving team. His devotion and impetus have earned him recognition from the Indiana High School Athletic Association and he has received the Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year award eight times.

It is an honor and a privilege to have Mr. Cavanaugh inspire the hearts and minds of young Hoosiers. His work honors democracy

and helps to safeguard our country's future. By invigorating today's youth with the power and passion of the free world, Mr. Cavanaugh does his part to protect liberty for generations to come. I congratulate my cousin on his vision, his dedication, and his success. Chris, I am proud of you.

HONORING MARINE CORPS
CORPORAL PAUL BRODNER AND
SERGEANT ANDREW LOWE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest sense of pride that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Corps Corporal Paul Brodner, Jr. and Sergeant Andrew Lowe. Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe, both constituents of mine from El Cajon, California, recently returned from a seven month deployment to Haditha, Iraq, with Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment.

Immediately upon arrival in Haditha, which had a reputation as one of the most dangerous locations within Al Anbar Province and all of Iraq, Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's patrol were targeted and attacked by Sunni insurgents. For Marines in Iraq, especially those serving in Al Anbar, small arms and sniper fire, grenades and improvised explosive devices are a daily threat that challenge mission objectives and personal safety.

The Sunni insurgency in Haditha, at its strength, initiated a campaign of murder and intimidation. Despite being a hotbed of such activity, Marine units in Haditha launched a successful counterinsurgency operation that ultimately restored control of the city's infrastructure and resources to local officials and workers, and suppressed the sense of fear that was preventing Iraqis from joining police and security forces.

By the end of Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's deployment, Haditha's police force exceeded 200 volunteers and began conducting security operations independently of the Marines—who also began receiving regular intelligence reports on insurgent activity from city residents. Progress in Haditha became measurable, especially as attacks against Iraqi and coalition forces decreased from an average of ten per day to only a handful each month. Today, Marines and Iraqi soldiers are serving side-by-side and, most importantly, our Marines continue to provide Iraq's security forces with the training and techniques they will need to protect their government and its people.

It is without question that the service men and women who have served in Iraq have demonstrated absolute selflessness and courage. In fact, I am reminded of a recent conversation I had with a Marine leader regarding our efforts in Iraq, particularly the progress of our Marines in Al Anbar Province. The message relayed to me was, "We are crushing the enemy in Al Anbar."

Madam Speaker, this continued success in Al Anbar would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of Americans like Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe. Their